

**#24
\$10**

LadyLike magazine ADULTS ONLY

*Fran
Williams*

PROFILE:

Fran Williams

SEX & THE MARRIED TV

Vanessa Kaye

THE PROBLEM

More adventures

A GUIDE FOR THE WOEFUL & MISINFORMED

Auntie Dee

plus...

*lots of photos
of you!*



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Roberts' Ramblings

66

A milestone event took place in February 1995. The transgender community and the professional counseling community met on even ground to talk, to argue, to debate, but most importantly to learn.

The event was the First International Congress on Gender, Cross Dressing and Sex Issues, sponsored by the Center for Sex Research at the California State University at Northridge. The congress was the brainchild of Drs. Vernon and Bonnie Bullough who have long studied the t-community and are some of its greatest friends.

People came from all over the world to attend this congress. World class research was presented, as well as some dubious material, but overall the quality of the presentations was excellent. I was most impressed with two especially interesting presentations. The first was given by Robert Gorski, Ph.D. who does brain-sex research. His lab is exploring the depths of the human brain looking for sex differences that might explain certain kinds of behavior, like homosexuality and transsexuality. While Dr. Gorski has found brain differences between straight males, straight females and homosexual males, nothing points to any definitive cause. For all we know, the difference may be caused by being heterosexual and homosexual, not the other way around.

The other presentation was by a Chinese doctor (I apologize for not having his name) who transplanted testes into FtM transsexuals and ovaries into MtF transsexuals. The idea was to obviate the need to administer hormones by pill or injection. The testes survived 9 months and the ovaries a year before turning necrotic and requiring removal. But, the first heart transplants were unsuccessful too.

This congress was conceived as a one-time only event, but the consensus of opinion between transgender people attending and the professionals was that it would be worth holding such a congress on a repeating periodic basis. About every two years seemed right to most and an informal steering committee was formed to find an academic sponsor for a 1997 congress. Several locations were suggested including Minneapolis, Toronto, Cambridge (U.K.), Honolulu, and Philadelphia. A really exciting aspect of this second congress is the cooperative effort between the t-community and the academic sponsor. Several transgender organizations pledged their support as the "hands and legs" for the congress.

When more definitive information is available, I'll announce it here. And, speaking of pledging, both Tri-Ess and IFGE have taken the Pledge for Community.

By the time you get this my "storefront" should be opened on the World Wide Web of the Internet. If you haven't gotten "wired" to the net, you're missing the next information revolution. Just getting e-mail is worth the price of the connection.

It's not appropriate for LadyLike to get into how to connect to the net and Web, but you'll find an excellent series of articles from *Cross-Talk*, a cousin periodical published by Kymberleigh Richards, PO Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365. If you have an email account, send her email to: kymmer@xconn.com.

Meanwhile, if you are already Web wired, come visit the CDS Home Page. There's lots of neat stuff to look at and read, plus some valuable resources and other t-pages on the Web. The URL is: <http://www.cdspub.com>.

Visit often since the pages will be periodically updated with fresh information on events, news, activities, etc. This is just one more way that CDS is trying to fulfill the information needs of the transgender community and, even if I do say so myself, nobody does it better.

JoAnn Roberts '99

LadyLike #24

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Cover Credits: Fran Williams



Fran Williams

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Fran Williams



LadyLike's Profile

NAME: Frances Williams

AGE: 46

PROFESSION: Academics

RESIDENCE: SE Pa.

HEIGHT: 5' 11"

WEIGHT: 175#

MEASUREMENTS: 38c-32-34, Sz: 14

SHOE SIZE: 10W

FAVORITE THINGS

SHOE STYLE: Pumps

PERFUME: Liz Claiborne

MOVIE: *Forbidden Planet*

FANTASY: Spend a year living as a woman

MUSIC: New Age, Classical

PLACE: Martha's Vineyard

TURN-ONS: Theater, Martial Arts

TURN-OFFS: Loud, boisterous people



Fran Williams

LL: You said a picture you once saw started it all for you. Tell us about that photo.

FW: I was 10 or 11 years old and a friend discovered his father's [adult] magazines. I only remember one picture. A girl with short blonde hair was standing in front of a window with her back to the camera. She was clad only in a short shirt, and her rear end was peeking out of the bottom. I was mesmerized by that picture. That night after going to bed I couldn't get that picture out of my mind.

I went over to the window and tried to strike the same pose. Something wasn't quite right so I took off my pajama bottoms and tried it again. There, that was it, at least for the pose. A couple of days later I was looking for something in a chest of drawers. I found a baby blue bed jacket, that I had never seen before. It was satin and felt so soft to the touch. That night I did my pose again, but this time I put on the bed jacket. What a feeling, so soft and feminine, and

I could picture myself as that girl. I started to wonder what it would be like to be a girl. I had started to notice that girls looked different from boys besides the long hair. And what were those bumps on their chests? I found a bathing suit of my mom put it on one night, stuffed it with socks and slept all night with it on under my pj's. After that, as they say, the rest is history.

LL: Like most of us who experimented at an early age, you were caught. What was that like?

FW: I found an article in a magazine about who has the perfect shape, there were 3 pictures Brigitte Bardot, Marilyn Monroe, and Jane Mansfield, I think. Anyway, by then I was crossdressing quite often, but I didn't know about shape, measurements etc. (How *naive* could I be! Thinking back on it, I was such a prude, and I'd even been on a date to my 6th grade dance).



One night after everyone had gone to bed, I snuck down and got one of my mother's bras out of the hamper and a tape measure. I tried to emulate Brigitte using socks for breasts and underwear for hips. I put on one of my mother's silk dresses. I guess I was making too much noise and heard mom coming down the stairs. In about 4 seconds I had the dress off and my pj's back on, but I still had on the bra. Mom asked what I was doing. I said dressing up, and pleaded with her not to tell dad. I felt ashamed and I must have been red as a beet. Mom never said anything to dad, or brought it up to me again. After that I tried to be more careful and only dressed when I was home alone (Hey, great name for a movie!), and knew what time someone would be home. When I started putting runs in mom's pantyhose, she started hiding them, but to this day she's never said anything.

LL: We're the same age, so I know what it was like growing up in the 60's. No one talked about sex, let alone crossdressing. How did you feel about yourself?

FW: I don't know that I ever felt anything bad

about myself. I knew I was the only one in the world that did this, and by high school I had heard the word "queer," and knew about that. But I liked girls, not boys, had girlfriends, went to dances and got "excited" slow dancing, all that adolescent stuff. What a time! A hard-on and nothing to do with it. And acne so you were shy around girls, so you couldn't try to do anything about it.

Talk about sex! I learned that the way we all did. From a long man-to-man talk on the corner with the other guys. Mothers talked to their daughters about sex. Fathers didn't. At least that was my perception of the 50's and 60's. I even watched how I talked around girls, so they wouldn't know I liked to wear their clothes. I didn't think guys should know about slips, bras and stockings. Boy was I dumb. Everyone probably thought I was a prude, and who could you tell about your "hobby," and I really didn't want to tell anyone anyway.

LL: You say you "hibernated" while in college and in the service. Was that difficult, to not dress?

FW: I hibernated because I never had any of my own clothes, and being in a dorm (all male), and in



the service (ditto), there wasn't a plethora of garter belts laying around. Besides, by then I really found out what girls were, thanks to a high school gym teacher who thought I was so cute, but that romance is a story all to itself. And beds were for more than sleeping. Wow, I was a bundle of raging hormones. It was the 60's—sex drugs and rock & roll. Well, for me it was rock and not a lot of rolls, but I tried. Drugs never entered my world, thank goodness.

After college, I went to graduate school at the University of Saigon, 2 tours Airborne Ranger, medals out my rear, the whole bit. I just occupied myself with other things. I can't remember crossdressing coming into my mind. I'm sure it did, but I don't remember it.

When I came home, I got married and found a new source of clothes. Started back up, just as natural as could be. I was still too shy to buy my own (how dumb), and up to that time I had never used makeup, not even lipstick. I had never been out. I guess I thought this was all a diversion, not a serious thing, at least I didn't think so then.

How much time I wasted when I was young and slim. Until I was 30 I never weighed over 150 lbs, and at 6 foot, I was built just right.



LL: You've been through two marriages and this is now your third. Do you think your crossdressing had anything to do with the breakups?

FW: Crossdressing was never an issue in the first two marriages. They never knew. The first marriage was a huge mistake. I was young, away from home and we both realized soon after we married that it was a mistake. The second didn't know and there were other reasons for that breakup.

LL: So, after the second divorce, you went into a 10 year sprint with all out crossdressing. Is this when you really developed into Fran?

FW: During my second marriage I discovered wigs and makeup. I have to thank her for that. One Halloween she decided that I would be a cheerleader. She knew nothing of my crossdressing, so she never knew how happy she made me. She bought a wig and did my makeup. When she was done, I looked in the mirror and my mouth must have hit the floor. I was pretty. No, beautiful. No, I was drop-dead gorgeous. After that, I would buy my own makeup in the supermarket. I had a wedding ring a



I always had a desire to go out dressed, as we all do but where. Around this time, I found TV magazines and had heard about TS's, etc. I thought, "My God, there're others out there like me." But where are they? Hey, gay bars. Not everyone who goes to them is gay. Hell, I'd been to one with a bunch of friends. I called the gay hotline and got the names of places that TV's are welcome. There was one near me. One night I primped, dressed, snuck out to the car and drove there and I went in. A girl bartender came up and waited on me and walked away, Nothing else. No laughs, no stares, zilch. What was I worried about? No one stared, called the cops, or even cared. Another item in the long list of wasted time in my life. I finally found out the bartender was a TS and we struck up a friendship. She introduced me around and I found that at least at this place I was accepted like anyone else. Some people liked me some didn't. Just like the real world. I'm not so weird after all. I finally matured as a person fully. I am not what I once was, but I am what I always will be, me. And if you don't like it, as with everything else in life, tough shit.

shopping list, so who would know. I also started buying clothes. That was a bit awkward at first. I always thought the sales girls were laughing at me when I left. That ended when I met the most wonderful woman ever. I was in Macy's in the lingerie section kind of browsing and waiting until no one was around. All of a sudden, I heard those words that strike fear into the hearts of men, "Can I help you sir." Oh hell, here we go. I took a deep breath told her what I was looking for and a size. She led me around picked out what she thought I would like and then floored me with "This should hold you in and make you look great." I started to say something, but she just waved it off and said that's what she was there for. I don't even remember her name but I bought a lot of things from her. She's not there now, but it taught me who cares who its for, you're there to sell it and I want to buy it. Also, no one has ever asked me who is this for. (Boy, I wish they would). Teenage dweebs chuckle now and then or say sarcastically, "Want to try it on?" Someday I'm going to say "Yes." But who cares. Once you're gone you'll never see them again and no lights are going to go on and an announcement isn't coming over the PA system.



LL: You had a great relationship with a woman who was very helpful. What happened there?

FW: I met her through a mutual friend. We started dating and had a lot of fun together. Along came another Halloween. I had long since given up on Halloween. I wanted to put on a dress and look good. On Halloween you had to sort of be a little garish and I didn't want to do that. But she insisted, so I told her I would do the hooker bit, and she had her own costume. One night I told her I wanted to show her my "costume." I showed her about 10 different outfits, and finally she asked if the clothes were mine. I said Yes and waited for the worst. Instead of running away screaming, she told me how good I looked and that she didn't care. After that we had two great years together. She helped me with clothes, better makeup, deportment, everything you could ask. She drew the line at going out with me. I really didn't mind; it was great hanging out together, two girlfriends. When I dressed around her, I really had to put a lot of effort into it because she always tried to outdo me. After 2 years she was looking for marriage and I wasn't. We broke up friends.



LL: So, you didn't marry her, but you did get married again. Did you tell wife #3 about Fran?

FW: My present wife doesn't know and wouldn't understand. This article is taking a chance. I have to be careful. But this is a chance I feel I have to take. I think I am at a point where I have a story to tell and it's one others would like to hear. I am as much Frances as I am my male-self. In different aspects for sure (that's valley girl lingo) but the same person.

LL: If you had anything to do over again, what would you do differently?

FW: Knowing what I know now? Ah, the famous 20/20 hindsight question, and I think the sight of my hind is great. I wouldn't have wasted my 20's and 30's in the closet. I would have sought out others like me. They were around, I just didn't try to find them. Groups like Renaissance weren't around. There wasn't a LadyLike to help. I would have realized that I am what I am: Special.



**Feel like
an alien
in your
own
body?**



Photo: This Island Earth, 1955

Perhaps we can help. You're not an alien and you're not alone. Since 1985, CDS has been serving the information needs of the transgender community with publications like **Art & Illusion, A Guide to Crossdressing, Vols. I and II** (\$15 ea.), **The Transsexual's Survival Guide to Transition and Beyond** (\$15), **Identity Management in Transsexualism** (\$15), and **Coping With Crossdressing** (\$12). CDS also has videos like **Basic Makeup, LadyLike Deportment, Cosmetic Surgery** and **Straight Dope on Hormones**, just \$30 each, plus \$3 shipping & handling each. VISA and MasterCard accepted.



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Girl Talk

with JoAnn Roberts



Girl Talk is your forum. Any question on any topic is fair game, from makeup secrets to the psychology of transgendered behavior. If I don't have an answer, I'll find someone who does. Write me care of this magazine with your questions. I just love to get mail.

Dear Joann,

I am in the early stages of hair loss, and I was wondering if small dosages of hormones (not enough to cause breast growth) would help?

Rosa, Australia

Dear Rosa,

I would not recommend female hormones for your purposes. There are too many side-effects and the dosage level needed to stop hair growth would likely cause other problems.

However, you do have several options. Hair loss is driven by testosterone. If you lower your testosterone level you can reduce or even stop the hair loss. There are a couple of ways to lower testosterone levels without the use of estrogens. One of the most common drugs used as an anti-androgen is Spironolactone. This is a diuretic used to control high blood pressure, but it also lowers testosterone levels. It's often used in conjunction with estrogens for M2F transsexuals. Needless to say, fooling with your testosterone levels can lead to unwanted side-effects, like impotence.

You actually have a better option with Rogaine® which is specifically for thinning hair. It is a topical treatment that will only affect the hair follicles and nothing else. Two important things you need to know about Rogaine®. It cannot revive dead follicles. Nothing can. And, once you start using it, you must keep using it. If you stop, your hair will begin to fall out again.

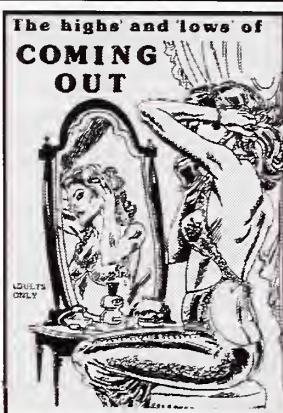
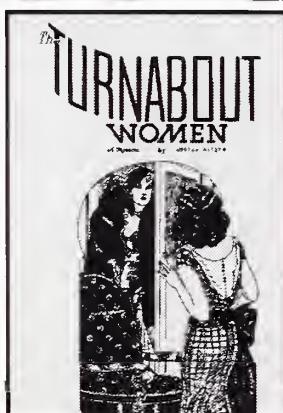
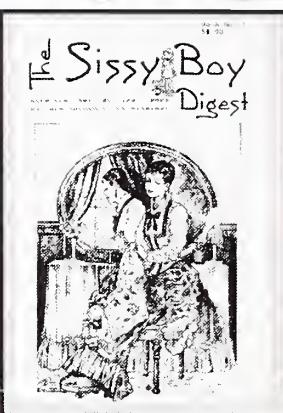
To get a prescription for Spironolactone you'll need to see a doctor and explain why you want it. You'll need to see a doctor for Rogaine® too, but the reason is obvious and there isn't the potential for embarrassment.

Dear JoAnn,

Everyone is talking about color. A person's skin tone is supposed to reflect what color clothes and makeup look best. How does one determine their color? I wear a lot of

continued on page 13

Storybooks & Videos For All of Your Fantasies



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Watch Out! They will trap you in silk and satin. Bind you in tight panties and form fitting sissy garments and change you into a strange Nouveau woman! In this silky other world you'll find tantalizing entertainment. GO FOR IT!

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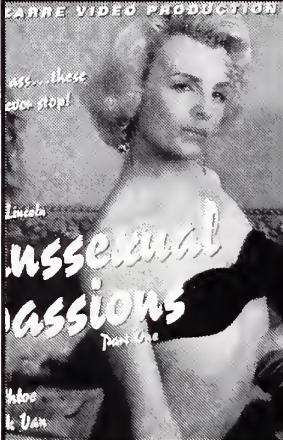
How many women does it take to make one male into a total female? When the turnabout women look for their next subject for transformation, they take aim with femininity. Trapping with lingerie, Dresses and high heels. Imprison your mind with only thoughts that a woman should have. How can you escape? Will you want to!

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black and feel like I'm ready for any funeral occasion that might pop up.

Bev, NC

Dear Bev,

You start with two generic skin types: warm and cool. Look at your forearm in bright sunlight. If you can see a yellow or golden undertone, you're warm. If you see a blue undertone, you're cool. From there you go into the various "seasons." However, where once there were 4 seasons (winter, spring, summer and fall), there are now about a dozen. Beyond "cool" and "warm" it is very difficult to decide your own seasons. Of course, that's why there are "color consultants." There is validity to finding your colors, but it really does take an expert to do it properly. Look in the phone book under beauty consultants.

But, never, ever worry about wearing black. It is elegant and classic. You'll never go wrong with black. One of my nicknames is the Black Queen because I wear a lot of black. Spice up the black with a blouse or sweater of a bright color. I always like to wear a large pin on my clothes; it looks elegant.

Dear JoAnn,

This may seem like a dumb question and you may have answered it previously, but I need to know how do you take a good picture of yourself?

Jaclyn, Detroit, MI

Dear Jaclyn,

It's not a dumb question, but it's also not one that is easily answered in the confines of this column. We ran a series of self-photography articles about two years ago and we'll be running a new piece in a future issue. But, I will try to give you some hints on how to get pictures acceptable for this magazine.

First, you need a decent camera and that means at least a 35mm. Cameras are so inexpensive these days there is really no excuse not to own a decent camera. Next, you need lights. This is probably more important than the quality of the camera. If there is not enough light, you can't get a good picture with even the best of cameras. I like to use three lights: one behind the camera and two side lights. See the set-up diagram. Buy three reflectors and three photoflood lamps and a power strip. Set up your main light to shine directly on the subject. The set up the two side lights to eliminate the shadow cast by the main light. With all this light, you can use moderately fast color film and stop the lens down so you get good depth of focus.

While I mention film, make sure you get indoor color film for use with photofloods. Outdoor film is formulated to correct for the blue cast of the sunlight, while indoor film is corrected for the red cast of incandescent bulbs. If you use outdoor film indoors, your pictures will look orange. Indoor film used outdoors will look blue.

Okay, get a chair or something to use as a stand-in for yourself. I use an old fashion clothes pole. Set up your lights to eliminate the shadows of the stand-in. Also use the stand-in to make sure you have the camera focused properly, then turn the lights off. Now, go stand in front of the camera and pose. You may feel silly, but you need to know how you want the photo to come out. If you have a large mirror, place this on a chair behind the camera so you can see yourself. Remember where your body is and how you posed. Ready?

Go set the 10 second timer on the camera, turn on the photofloods, press the shutter and you have 10 seconds to get back into your pose. Snap! You have a picture. You can get fancy with automatic remote control shutter releases and strobed flash but that starts to cost money. You can get perfectly good photos with the set up described.

Dear JoAnn,

How do I tell my wife what I am, and is it worth the potential disaster?

Marsha, OH.

Dear Marsha,

There is no one best way to disclose to your partner that you are a crossdresser. And I have to tell you that after 25 years of marriage, this could be a big shock to her. Some studies indicate that the longer you take to tell her, the worse her reaction may be. But, there's really nothing you can do about keeping a secret for 25 years. The best I can give you are some Do's and Don'ts:

Do's

- Have quality printed information for your partner to read. Start with *Coping With Crossdressing* (CDS) or *MY Husband Wears My Clothes* (PM Publishers) or even *LadyLike*. Avoid transvestite fantasy literature and any magazines with contact ads.

- Suggest talking to a *qualified* professional counselor for impartial answers to questions. Contact a local group to find a professional who has had experience in dealing with transgendered issues.

- Discuss limits and constraints on the crossdressing behavior if your partner seems understanding of

continued on next page

your need. Some topics might be: where and when crossdressing is acceptable both privately and publicly; the role of crossdressing in the bedroom; and whether to tell others, including children, other family members and friends. Discuss the extent your partner is willing to participate in your crossdressing activities.

Don'ts

- Don't overwhelm her with too much information. Stop long enough to let her ask questions and be prepared to stop immediately if she is shocked.
- Don't retract anything said up to this point. Sometimes, her reaction may be delayed by days. Be prepared to deal with this over a period of time.
- Don't describe transvestism in negative terms; you have a "problem." Transvestism is a part of you, for better or worse, and it will never go away.
- Don't surprise your partner by showing up crossdressed. Let her ask to see you first. Be prepared for another potential shock reaction. What may sound like a fun at first can take on a totally different meaning when confronted face to face.
- Don't rush your partner off to a TV support group meeting until *after* she's seen you dressed in private or unless she requests it. The sight of a room full of TVs may do more damage than good.
- Don't assume that her response today will be the same as it was yesterday, or the same tomorrow. People have feelings and emotions that change on a daily basis. Ground rules negotiated last month can change next month, depending on how you behave.
- Don't waste time educating a therapist who has only textbook knowledge of crossdressers. Most of what has been written in textbooks is inaccurate anyway. I also suggest a psychologist rather than a psychiatrist. You're looking for help and support, not a "cure," because there is no cure.

It is important to remember that in any relationship, negotiation and compromise is an on-going process. Even when a woman initially agrees to accept her partner's crossdressing, it does not mean she will always accept it.

Dear JoAnn,

It is so generous of you to offer to mention me in your column. I have a newsletter, Lucid Visions, that deals with holistic spiritual issues related to gender and uplifting articles encouraging people to give themselves permission to pursue their deepest dreams and desires. I have learned that becoming and being a woman is a matter of desire, identity, and attitude. This and other information I wish to impart through Lucid Visions. A

sample copy is available for free with an SASE to the address below. A one year subscription is \$12 for a new issue each month.

Belinda Twomey, 375 Palm Springs Dr. #428, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

Dear JoAnn,

I've read much about hormones and their use, but little about electrolysis. I've heard electrolysis is not effective in removal of beard hair. Also, will a single treatment be enough? Is there more than one method?

Penny Tatlock, Ore.

Dear Penny,

Someone is giving you bad information. Electrolysis is the **only** permanent hair removal treatment and it works perfectly well on male facial hair. Effectiveness of the treatment and whether you may need more than one session per area depends on many factors, including the skill of the operator.

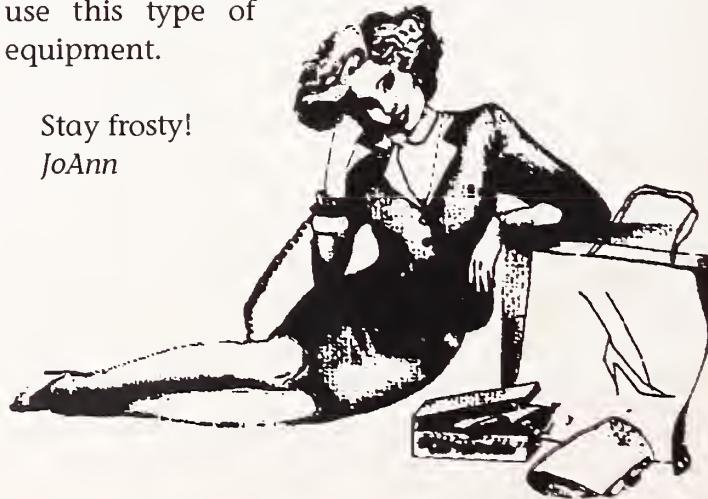
In a nutshell, electrolysis uses electrical current to heat the hair follicle beneath the skin and cause it to die. Hair can only be effectively electrolyzed while it is actively growing. If the follicle is in a dormant stage, electrolysis will loosen the hair shaft from the follicle but it may not kill the follicle. So, the hair may grow back and require additional treatment.

Facial hair is different from other body hair and male facial hair is quite different from female facial hair. Removal may require more aggressive treatment and if the operator doesn't take this into account, you may need additional treatments.

Since electricity comes in two "flavors" (AC & DC) it stands to reason that there would be at least two kinds of electrolysis. The original method used DC and was called Galvanic Electrolysis. Later, high frequency AC was used. The last "advance" was a combination of the two called the "Blend" method. A study done at the University of Pennsylvania concluded that the Blend method was the most effective. I think most electrologists use this type of equipment.

Stay frosty!

JoAnn





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Sex & the Married JV

by Vanessa & Suzanne Kaye



Vanessa Speaks:

My wife, Suzanne, has known about my cross-dressing since our second or third date. I remember, at the time, her response was, "Gee, that sounds kind of fun." Well, a few years have gone by since that time and we have had to work at how this "other woman,"

Vanessa, fits into our relationship.

In the transgender community, one hears very little about bedroom issues and the married, heterosexual crossdresser. It is almost taboo. Suzanne and I feel that many crossdressers and their partners believe they will be labeled "fetishistic" if they say they enjoy making love while en femme. The time for this unnecessary categorizing of crossdressers according to whether or not they receive sexual pleasure from or find crossdressing erotic, is past. It is time to be more open and sharing for the purpose of helping others. Hence, we have agreed to tell some of our story.

For me, the dream of making love while cross-dressed was the ultimate fantasy, but how was I to realize it? For Suzanne, the question was, "So, am I supposed to act like a woman or a man?" Tough questions. All we can say is, it works for us.

I most enjoy love making when I am crossdressed, as Vanessa. Unfortunately, this is not when it is best for Suzanne. As a result, one of our first "rules" is balance. If I were interested in making love only while en femme, that would be selfish and potentially destructive to our relationship. I know, because I went through that stage.

Why is it so exciting for me? I don't know; it's just everything about it. It's the feel of the fabrics, the smell of my own perfume, the sense of being caressed through a satin nightgown or having someone hold

my own breast. As a crossdresser, to be made love to as a woman is the confirmation of all I strive for. My limited quest to experience femininity reaches fulfillment in the bedroom with my partner.

After going out to dinner or to some function while en femme, it is wonderful to come home, change into our nightgowns, get a couple glasses of wine and tune into VH1. On other occasions, Vanessa prepares a candlelight dinner for two. Afterwards, she clears the table, cleans the kitchen and then she and Suzanne enjoy a quiet evening before going to bed. The variations are unlimited. One constant is this, due to my high level of sexual arousal, it is imperative that Suzanne's needs be met first. This works well for us.

Suzanne is a super partner and does her best to indulge my desires. She refers to me as Vanessa and to parts of my anatomy as if they were actually a woman's anatomy. While en femme, I prefer to play a submissive role catering to her desires and wishes. She may one time prefer I help her bathe or perhaps just a massage; it varies. She in turn focuses her attention on my needs. Each of us is satisfied, and we both have fun. Afterwards, I clean up and sleep in the nightgown. Suzanne's biggest gripe is makeup on the sheets. I can't help it; it is all part of the illusion.

Suzanne Speaks:

If Vanessa wears a nightgown to bed, it does not really bother me that much. It is just a different way to make love as far as I am concerned. I enjoy her nightgowns probably as much as she does. I have never felt like I was a lesbian because she is dressed the way she is. I know underneath all the makeup and clothes it is still my husband. He/she takes care of my needs so it is rather easy to reciprocate for him/her.

All I can say is try it. You may not like it at first, but it can be as much of a turn-on for you as it is for him. If you do not try it, you may be the one who is missing out—he is probably fantasizing about it anyway. If you have an honest relationship and have open communication, it will be all right. Remember, you do not have to do it twice if it is something in which you find no pleasure. Personally, I have more trouble with larger issues—like my family finding out about Vanessa.

Sex & the Single TV

by Angela Gardner



she took that final look in the mirror before stepping out the door (in her 4-inch pumps) she said to herself, "Girl, you are hot." Now, here she is, sitting on a barstool in a semi-classy watering hole. A place full of straight men who have had her in their sights since she came through the door. The thing she has been working all evening to accomplish—to be a sexy, alluring woman—has been achieved. (At least, she's convinced herself of that.)

What she is now worried as hell about is how to keep the boys from learning her little secret, how to avoid close contact with hungry wolves who only require half a smile or brief eye contact as the trigger that will send them into a feeding frenzy, with her as the feast. As Joan Rivers says, "Can we talk?"

Sexual Response

I think most of us admit there is an erotic connection between the crossdresser and crossdressing. After all, the brain is the biggest sex organ and for those who have had their "love maps" programmed for stimulation by crossdressing, putting on a dress may result in as much stimulation as a non-transvestite might get from touching their favorite sex object or watching an "adult" movie. Of course, sexual response varies from one individual to another. That may explain why some crossdressers claim they get no sexual kick from femme attire. They say they do it because it helps them relax and relieves stress. They

First, something we find a lot of in the transgender community, a fantasy. We see our heroine out on the town. She is decked out in her finest spandex minidress and the low cut front shows off her carefully crafted cleavage. She has spent several hours painting and primping. When

feel better when they "dress up." Each individual has a sexual response that can go from cold, to lukewarm, to hot, and a person's sexual response may vary with factors such as age, health and personal priority. Feeling better or being more relaxed may be the *only* manifestation of sexual response for folks who don't get all hot and bothered about any kind of sex. So, whether crossdressing or related fantasies make you very turned on or just give you a warm glow all over, you are experiencing a sexual response.

If you are sexually aroused by your crossdressing and, like our heroine, are out in a public place with an adrenalin rush, along with the endorphins already coursing through our biggest sex organ, (the brain—the brain), may we not expect to get an erotic thrill from the sexual attention of men? By attention, I mean appraising looks and flirtatious glances.

You can't dress like our heroine and not feel a little more turned on when you think a man is checking you out. You are excited since you think his thoughts may be running along the lines of, "Who is this foxy babe? Check out those legs!" (He may *actually* be thinking, "Check out the biceps on the crossdresser.") The important point is: the turn-on for the crossdresser is feeling s/he has sexually attracted a man who thinks s/he is a woman, particularly a straight man. To some this is the greatest thrill of "passing."

Approach/Avoidance

Now, the girl in the bar knows she is not a real woman. She knows she doesn't want to engage in intimate activity with her admirers since the one who "wins" her favor may not be as accepting of her secret as the Joe E. Brown character who spirited Jack Lemmon off to marital bliss in *Some Like It Hot*. (Remember, we're only talking about the heterosexual crossdresser.) Her fantasy has been satisfied. Intimacy would reveal the reality behind her glamorous façade and she worries about the consequences. So, she must avoid intimacy at all costs. In her mind, that road leads to discovery, humiliation and maybe the possibility of having to fight someone. Now there's a great way to break a nail. Or a jaw.

Chances are, if the venue our girl chooses is a classy

continued on page 26

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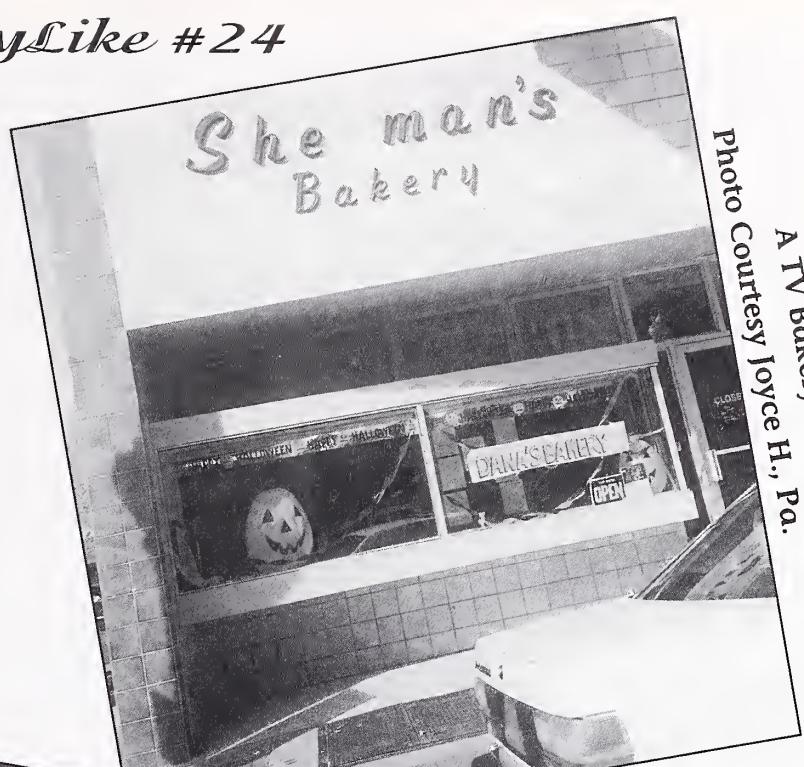
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LadyLike #24



A TV Bakery?
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Stephanie SoCal



Above: Lois Fisher (l.) and Lynda Wolf (r.)



Above: Nancy Burdick (l.) and Linda Lewis(r.)

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Above: Laurie, Ariz., circa 1966



Right Above: Laurie, circa 1972



Right: Laurie, circa 1978



Above: Laurie, 1994



Above Left: Arlene, 1994

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Sex & the Single TV

one, most of the men she may attract will refrain from breaking any part of her body when they catch on. Some may even continue to treat her like a lady and compliment her ability to utilize glamour. (It's a good idea to avoid redneck bars, sports bars and happy hours in tough neighborhoods.) If you find a place where you can go and enjoy yourself with the regular patrons knowing what's up, you are a lucky girl. You can make friends and express your femininity in a comfortable social setting without worrying about "passing." Of course, this means you may attract the attentions of someone, male or female, who is interested in a girl like you. What will you do now? More on that in a few paragraphs.

Walking on The Wildside

Some girls do like it hot. Because they enjoy the thrill and have an ego big enough to think their "something extra" will go undetected—due to their great beauty and natural womanliness—or, in some cases because they really do make passable women, they'll frequent straight bars and actively flirt with men. (If you think you're extremely passable it's important to note that late night bar crowds have usually had so much to drink their ability to distinguish gender is not very reliable.) If you can go out to straight bars as a woman, interact with men and get away with it, more power to you. It *can* be done, but in order to pull it off you need more than beauty. To truly get through the experience you need a woman's social skills. That's harder than beauty.

Are You Experienced?

How do you avoid guys you don't want to talk to? A woman has had a lifetime of experience at this. (Not to mention the combined experience of all her girlfriends.) How do you dump a guy who doesn't interest you? You can say you've got to go to the Ladies Room only so often. (Maybe he'll leave you alone if he thinks you have a bladder infection.)

What if you are firmly in your femme role and you "forget" that your manliness will be back with the sunlight, and you find yourself *attracted* to a man? He's bought you drinks and treated you like the lady of your fantasy. You're so turned-on by the whole experience you don't even remember ever being a man. Maybe you've danced close and romance has blossomed. Now, he'd like you to go home with him, or at least out to the parking lot. You find yourself thinking, "Gee, he really is a nice guy. I hate to leave him frustrated." Now there's a dilemma!

Questions To Ask Yourself

Whether you are out in social settings as a known crossdresser or "passing," you may be have the opportunity to engage in intimate activities ranging from simple hand holding and knee touching to petting, necking and beyond. You have to decide if you want to engage in these activities. Are you that dedicated to sexual intimacy while presenting your femme self? Are you prepared to handle the risks? What are the risks? If you're trying to keep your true gender under cover there are things a "girl" like you can do to please a man without giving yourself away. Are you willing to do them? Do you want to do them? Will you enjoy doing them? Is it worth the anxiety of possible discovery during an intimate moment? Search your mind and try to find some answers.

I have heard some crossdressers maintain that if a man has "treated them right" they feel as if they should "put out." Such thinking reveals a lot about a crossdresser's masculine side, and how that crossdresser views women and their social role. The last time I checked, a woman was not obligated to engage in sexual activity because a man bought her drinks, or dinner, or a new car for that matter. If you're going to act like a woman, there's no need to be a bimbo.

Finding Mister Right

Alright, you've decided to go for it. You want to interact, socially and perhaps sexually with a man. Where do you meet him? If you're trying to go the "passing" route, remember most single women don't go cruising for men by themselves. They always take along at least one friend. If you are a dedicated tramp and don't want to take time to find a cruising pal then go ahead, hit the singles scene on your own. It's a little like sky diving without a safety chute, but if that's what floats your boat, good luck.

Night Spots For Girls Like You

If you've decided to look for a male companion who appreciates a "woman with something extra" then you have to concentrate on finding places where guys like that congregate. Places like Club Edelweiss in New York City and the Queen Mary in the Los Angeles area cater to TVs and their "admirers." Most "admirers" will treat you like a lady, compliment you on your outfit, hair, legs, etc. and, sooner or later, either show you pictures of themselves in drag or ask you to dress them up. In other words, they're transvestites too! What a small world. Make the most of it. Tell your admirer that you are the girl and he'd better remember it. Let him dress up now and then in private but make sure he's always the butch male when you're in public.

Some of my TV friends really get into playing "lesbian" with another TV. If that's what turns you on, you may find a playmate at the TV nightclubs.

Making The Scene

In most major metropolitan areas there are dance clubs where anything goes. Check out the hot spots in your area. Go undercover first in your male clothes. Look for drag queens and gay men and women in the crowd. If the mix of people is good, come back again in a week or so on the same night and see if it's the same. Some clubs change clientele completely from one night to the next. If your spot passes the test for a consistently cool crowd get some other crossdressers or regular friends and go dancing. You may meet a bisexual guy who finds a woman like you interesting.

Sometimes a straight man isn't all that straight. If you exert your feminine wiles in just the right manner he may want to take you home and explore this different territory that's wrapped in such a familiar feminine package. A drag queen I know told me of an encounter she had with a macho man from Brooklyn. He was ignorant of her true nature until he got her back to his love pad and made a run for second base. She was worried that he might get physical, in a not-pleasant way, when he surprised her by suggesting that they "get busy" but "don't take your wig off." Sometimes your "exotic" nature can be a plus.

The same goes for interactions with women. Some women who identify as lesbians don't mind male sexual equipment, they're just totally turned off by the standard "guy" package. You might be just what they're looking for, if you don't revert to your masculine tendencies in the heat of passion. Then, there are straight women who find a crossdresser to be a turn on. I've met a few and had some interesting times as well as some bewildering times. A few of the women who found my crossdressing a turn on were a little weird themselves. Just because she likes you in your dress, don't be blind to personality traits.

Whichever kind of woman you attract, remember, women relate to women differently. Unless the woman who comes on to you is butch, chances are she will be more subtle than a man in her overtures. Be a lady and don't get pushy. It may be worth the wait.

What About Gay Guys?

Well, they do like your physical equipment and many of them are happy to party with you when you're all dressed up. Some are very complimentary if they think you do a good job of female impersonation. They won't tolerate any dowdiness though (unless it's done in a campy way). So, gay guys may be fun but another friend's story comes to mind. She

had been out dancing at a gay club and she found herself keeping company with a gay man who was buying her drinks, putting his arm around her and sensually massaging her thigh. When she mentioned that she felt too high to drive all the way home he offered to let her stay in his hotel room. At the hotel she slipped into the bathroom to freshen up, and strip down to her sexy teddy, garter belt and stockings. When she felt her beauty was more than adequate and her lip gloss was perfect, she headed back to the bedroom and paused in the doorway to do one of those sultry, sex kitten poses for her man, who was sprawled on the bed. He saw her standing there in her sexy teddy and said, "What's the matter with you Mary? Take that shit off and get your ass in this bed."

Great Expectations

If you are going to give dating men a try it might be a good idea to not have any great expectations. If you've gotten to know many women as your femme self then you know a big topic of conversation in woman-only groups is what dorks most men are. Don't waste time thinking a knight in shining armor is waiting to take you away to his fantasy castle. You may, if you get out on the scene on a regular basis (smile and be friendly) meet a few guys and maybe have some good times. To be fair, there are women out there who are not going to be perfect. It doesn't matter how you are dressed, personal relationships with anyone can be tough. If you want to establish one, the important factor is to make yourself available. There is someone, or several someones, for everyone but you'll never meet them if you hide your beauty in the closet.

Safety, Our Number One Priority

Whether you want a male or female playmate (how about both?) don't get so caught up in the thrill of it all that you forget safety first. In these times, "protection" is a lot more than a can of pepper spray in your purse. Unprotected sex can kill you. Whoever your partner is, don't assume they're honest when they tell you about their test results and don't accept "I'm sorry baby, I don't have any condoms." If your lover wants you bad enough condoms will be used. Hell, if you've gotten this far, you ought to be carrying them yourself. If he won't use a condom, better make that relationship strictly platonic.

Good luck. Have fun. Be safe.

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Resources

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• National Organizations •

American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724. Publishes *Chrysalis Quarterly*, and several pamphlets on gender issues. Extensive referral network for TV/TS/TG issues. Phone: 404-939-0244. Call in evening. A 501[c][3] non-profit membership organization affiliated with Renaissance.

International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. Publishes *TV/TS Tapestry*. Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Phone: 617-899-2212. A non-profit service organization.

Renaissance Education Assoc., Inc., Box 60552, King of Prussia, PA 19406, 610-630-1437, \$16 annual fee includes monthly newsletter. Back-ground Papers on TV/TS issues for personal and professional use. Speakers Bureau. Several chapters. Affiliates noted as "RA." A 501[c][3] non-profit membership organization.

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Publishes *Femme Mirror*. Chapters are marked with "‡" A non-profit membership organization.

• Organizations and Businesses •

• by State •

City, Name, Address, Zipcode

Alabama

Huntsville, Sigma Rho Gamma‡, Box 16174, 35802

Arizona

Tempe, Alpha-Zeta‡, Box 24459, 85285

Arkansas

Jonesboro, Mu Sigma‡, Box 61, 72403

California

Capistrano Beach, Sandy Thomas (CD Novels), Box 2309, 92624

Concord, DVG, Box 272885, 94527

Duarte, CHIC, Box 562, 91010

Glendale, NS Products (Breast Forms and more), Box 250669, 91225

Lakewood, Classic Curves (hip enhancer) 2620 Carson St. #55, 90712

L.A., Androgyny, PO Box 480740, 90048

L.A., Alpha‡, Box 36091, 90036

Sacramento, SGA, Box 215456, 95821

San Diego, Neutral Corner, Box 12581, 92112

San Francisco, ETVC, Box 426486, 94142-64861

San Jose, RGA, Box 700730, 9517

Sherman Oaks, Lydia's Fashions, 13837 Ventura Blvd., #2, 91423

Studio City, Jim Bridges' Boutique, 12457 Ventura Blvd., #103, 91604

Woodland Hills, Cross-Talk, (magazine), PO Box 944, 91365

Yorba Linda, Melody Products Int'l (breast forms), Box 2142, 92686

Yorba Linda, Powder Puffs Of Calif., Box 1088, 92686

Connecticut

Devon, ConnecticuTVView, Box 2281, 06460

Farmington, COS, Box 163, 06034

Hartford, The XX Club, Inc. (TS only, please), PO Box 387, 06141-0387

Colorado

Lakewood, Gender Identity Cntr Inc., 7951 W. Mississippi, Ste B, 80226

Northern & Southern Colo., please call 303-763-5097

Delaware

Wilmington, Renaissance DE Chapter, Box 5656, 19808

Florida

Hollywood, Serenity, Box 307, 33022

Lithia, Starburst, Box 298, 33547

Miami, Animas, Box 420309, 33242

St. Petersburg, Enchanté (TS only), 1801 69 Ave S, 33712

Winter Park, Phi Epsilon Mu‡, Box 3261, 32790

Georgia

Atlanta, AGE, Box 77562, 30357

Rosewell, Sigma Epsilon‡, Box 272, 30077-0272

Illinois

Chicago, CGS, Box 578005, 60657

Washington, CIGA, Box 126, 61517

Wood Dale, Chi Chapter‡, Box 40, 60191

Indiana

Ft. Wayne, Ladies After Dark, Box 5389, 46895

Indianapolis, IXE, Box 20710, 46220

Iowa

Cedar Rapids, Iowa Artistry, Box 75, 52406-0075

Kansas

Kechi, Wichita Transgender Alliance, Box 315, 67067

Overland Park, KCCAF, Box 4092, 66204

Shawnee Mission, Gender Dysphoria Support, Box 15561, 66215

Kentucky

Louisville, Louisville Gender Soc., Box 5458, 40255

Louisiana

New Orleans, GGA (RA), Box 870213, 70187

Maine

Augusta, Outreach Institute, 126 Western Ave #246, 04330

Portland, TransSupport, Box 17622, 04101

Massachusetts

Hadley, Sunshine Club, Box 149, 01035-0149

Natick, TG Magazine (requires a PC), Box 2085, 01760

Waltham, Vernon's Specialties (boutique), 386 Moody St., 02254

Woburn, TCNE Inc., Box 2283, 01888

Michigan

Grand Rapids, IME W. Michigan, Box 1153, 49501

Royal Oak, Crossroads, Box 1245, 48068

Minnesota

Minneapolis, CLCC, Box 16265, 55416

St. Paul, MFGE, Box 17945, 55117

Mississippi

Jackson, Beta Chi‡, Box 31253, 39206

Missouri

St. Louis, St. Louis Gender Found'n, Box 9433, 63117

Nebraska

Council Bluffs, RCGA, Box 680, 51502

New Mexico

Albuquerque, Fiesta!‡, 8200 Montgomery NE #241, 87109

New Jersey

Mays Landing, Renaissance SJ, Box 189, 08330

Red Bank, MOTG(RA), Box 8243, 07701

River Edge, Chi Delta Mu‡, Box 1, 07661

Resources

Trenton, Sigma Nu Rho‡, Box 9255, 08650

New York

Albany, TGIC, Box 13604, 12212

Buffalo, Buffalo Transition Support (TS only), Box 320, 14220

Lake Ronkonkoma, L.I.F.E., PO Box 3015, 11779

New York, MGN(RA), Box 45, 561

Hudson St., 10014

New York, Mardi Gras Boutique, 400 W. 14th St. at 8th Ave., 212-947-7773

Rochester, CD•Network, Box 92055, 14692

North Carolina

Charlotte, CTA, Box 25347, 28229

Charlotte, Kappa Beta‡, PO Box 12101, 28220-2101

Ohio

Cincinnati, Cross-Port, Box 12701, 45212

Elyria, Alpha-Omega‡, Box 954, 44036

Parma, Paradise Club, Box 29564, 44129

Reynoldsburg, Crystal Club, Box 287, 43068

Oklahoma

Oklahoma City, COTA, Box 60354, 73146

Oregon

Portland, NWGA, Box 4928, 97208

Portland, Trans-Port, Box 66913, 97290

Pennsylvania

Easton, CDI, PO Box 61, 18044

Elkins Park, Best Value Products (mail order catalog "B"), Box 156, 19095

Erie, Erie Sisters, 2115 W 8th St, #261, 16505

Jenkintown, Laine Alexander Image Consultant, 215-635-8858

Phila. (Metro), Renaissance GP, Box 530, Bensalem, 19020

Phila., Occasional Woman (custom clothes), 215-352-0248

Pittsburgh, TransPitt, Box 3214, 15230

Upper Darby, Marilyn's Wigs, 215-446-0799

York, Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, 17105

Tennessee

Memphis, Memphis TG Alliance, Box 11232, 38111

Nashville, Tenn. Vals, Box 92335, 37209

Texas

Alief, Tau Chi, Box 1105, 77411

Arlington, Delta Omega‡, Box 1021, 76004

Amarillo, Alpha Chi‡, Box 50266, 79159

Houston, GCTC, Box 90335, 77090

Houston, HCDA (Helping CDs Anon.), 6804 E Hwy 6 S #334, 77083

Houston, Int'l Conf. on Transgender Law, 5707 Firenza St., 77035

Riesel, TriPlex Gender Assoc., Box 381, 76682

Utah

Murray, Alpha Rho‡, Box 571242, 84157-1242

Virginia

Arlington, TGEA, Box 16036, 22215

Richmond, Virginia's Secret, Box 7386, 23221-0386

Washington

Seattle, Emerald City, Box 31318, 98103

Stanwood, Omega Alpha‡, Box 876, 98292

West Virginia

Huntington, Trans-WV, Box 2322, 25724

Wisconsin

Milwaukee, Gemini Gender Group, Box 44211, 53214

•Canadian•

Cornbury Society, Box 3745, Vancouver, B.C. V6B-3Z1

Gender Mosaic, Box 7421, Ottawa, Ontario, K1L-8E4

Monarch Social Club, Mississauga A Box 386, Mississauga, Ont. L5A 3A1, 416-949-6602

Wildside Boutique, 161 Gerrard St. E., Toronto, Ont., M5A-2E4, 416-864-0420

FantasyLand, 274 8th St. E., Box 682, Owen Sound, Ontario, N4K-5R4

•Recurring Events•

Be All You Can Be Weekend, put on by Paradise Club, Crossroads, TransPitt and Chi Chapter in June. Rotates thru Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh.

California Dreamin', put on by PPOC, CHIC, et. al., in May in Burbank, Ca.

Esprit, put on by Emerald City, NWGA & Cornbury Society in May in Port Angeles, Wash.

Fall Harvest sponsored by MAGGIE, contact J. Richards, 242 Church St., Bonne Terre, MO 63628.

Fantasia Fair, in Provincetown, Mass., in Oct. Contact Registrar, Box 15368, Boston, Mass. 02215

IFGE Convention, once a year in March/April, '95 in Atlanta, GA. Contact I.F.G.E.

Monarch Mardi Gras, Monarch Social Club, 1st wknd in October in Ontario.

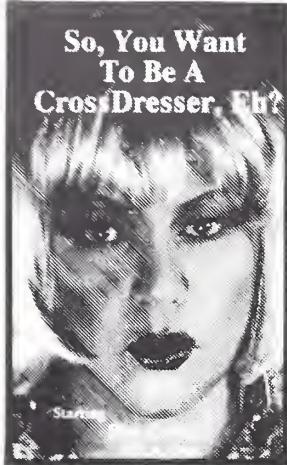
Paradise in the Poconos, 4days/3 nights, May & Sept. in the Pa. Poconos. Contact CDS/JoAnn Roberts.

Southern Comfort, Sept. weekend in Atlanta. Contact CTA, North Carolina.

Tiffany Provincetown Outings, twice a year in Oct & June. Contact TCNE, Mass.

For the most complete listing of Resources in the transgender community, you need to get the Who's Who & Resource Guide from CDS.

Subscribers to *LadyLike* can purchase a copy of the current *Who's Who & Resource Guide* for US\$7.50, a 25% discount off the US\$10 regular price. Send your check or money order, along with the mailing label from your *LadyLike* envelope, or give your CDS Customer Number, and we'll get this invaluable guide back to you tout-suite. If you're not a subscriber, just send US\$10 plus US\$1 shipping for your copy of the best resource guide around.



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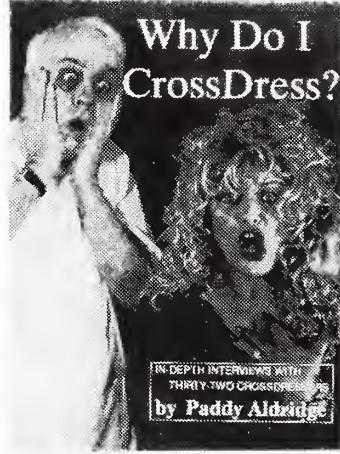
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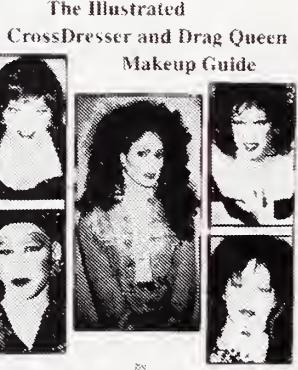
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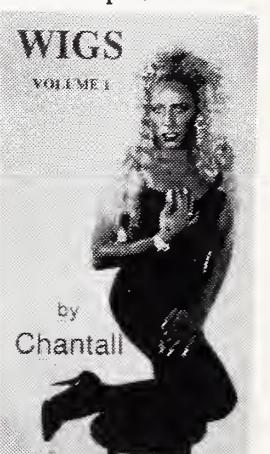


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Patricia Ann Aldridge

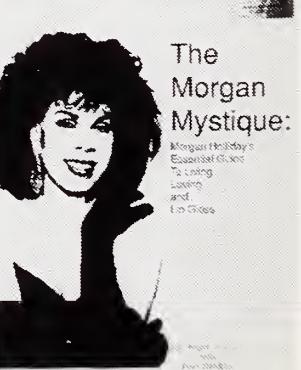
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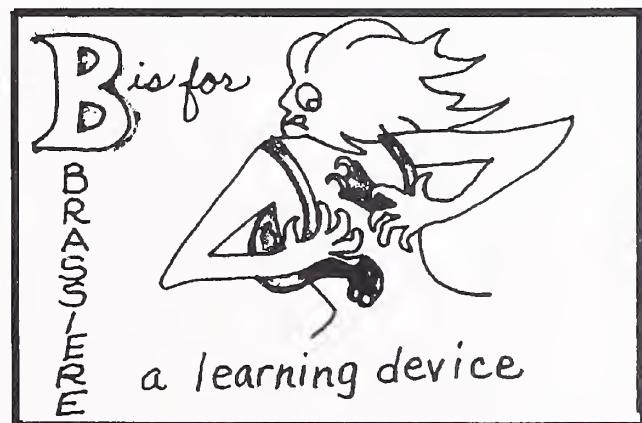
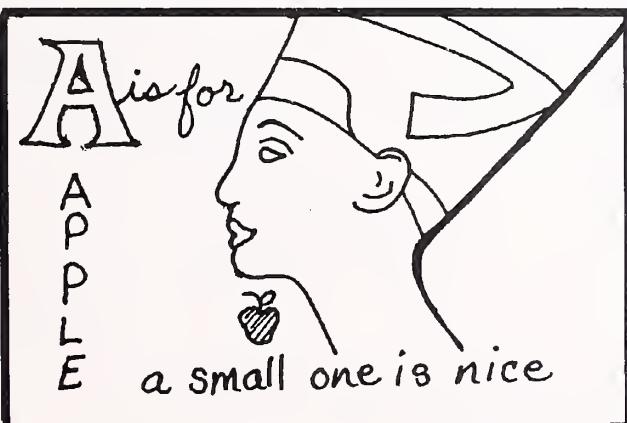
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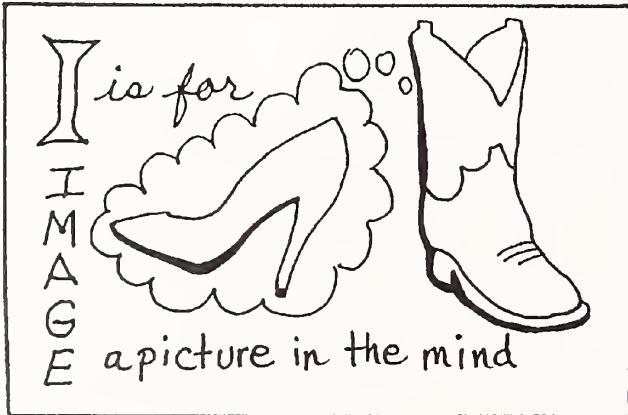
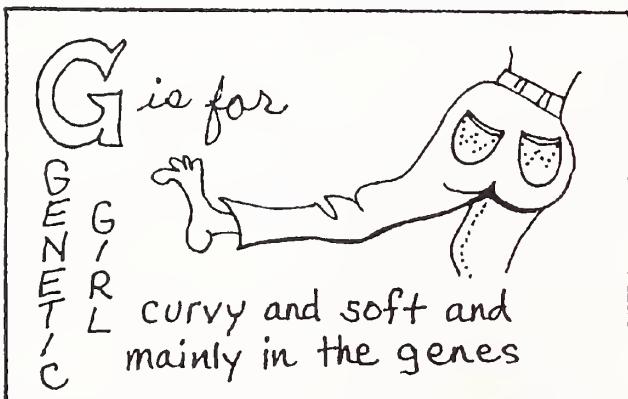
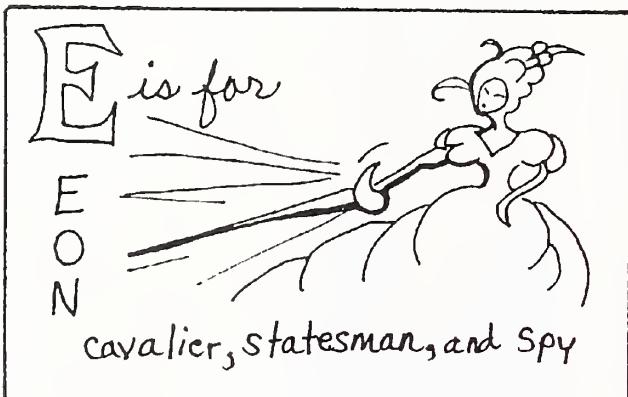
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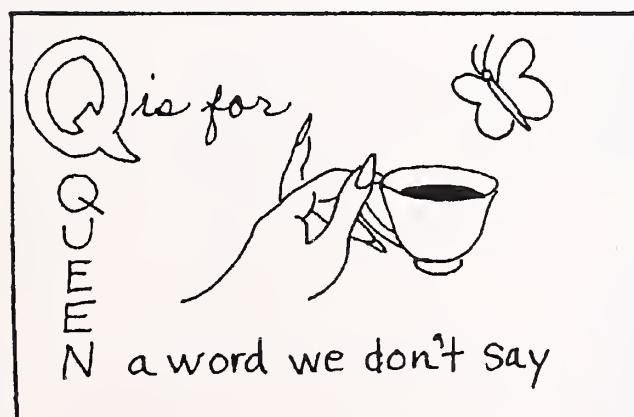
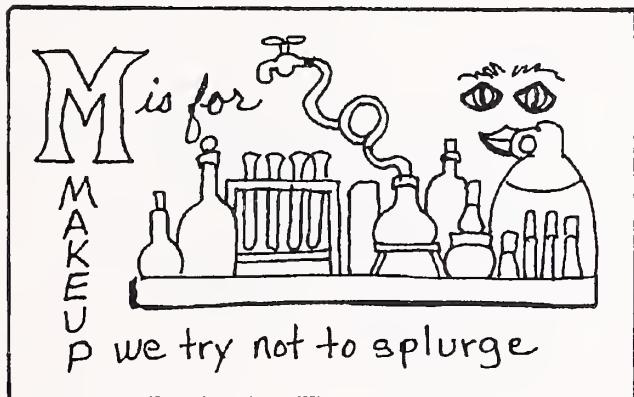
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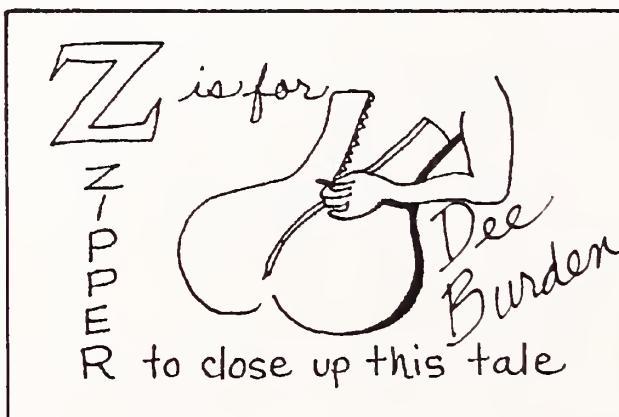
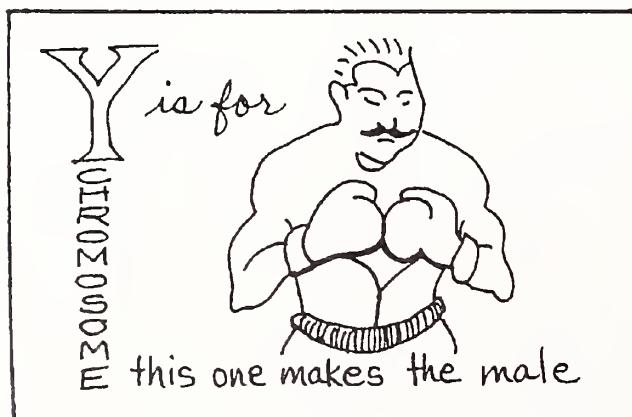
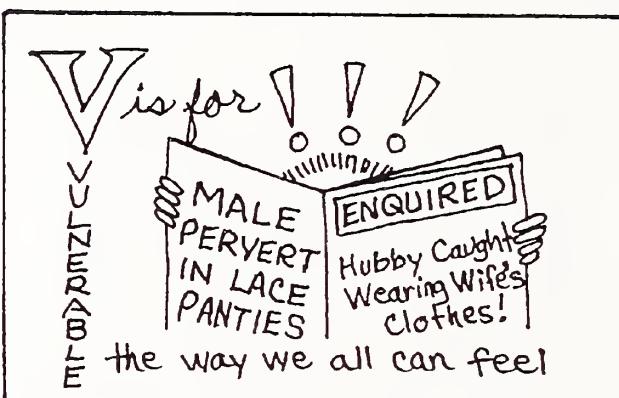
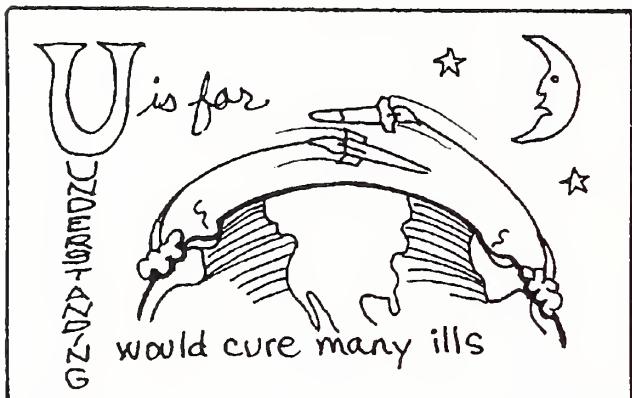
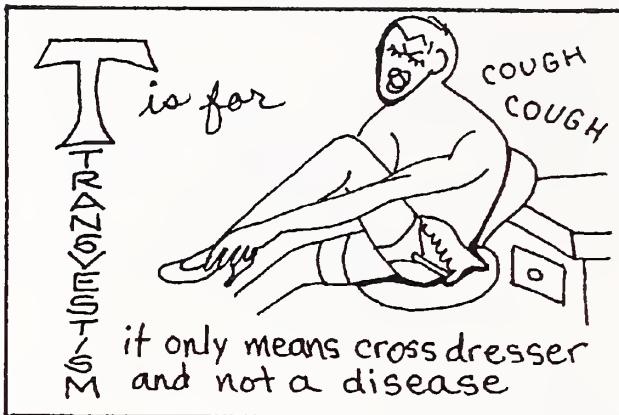
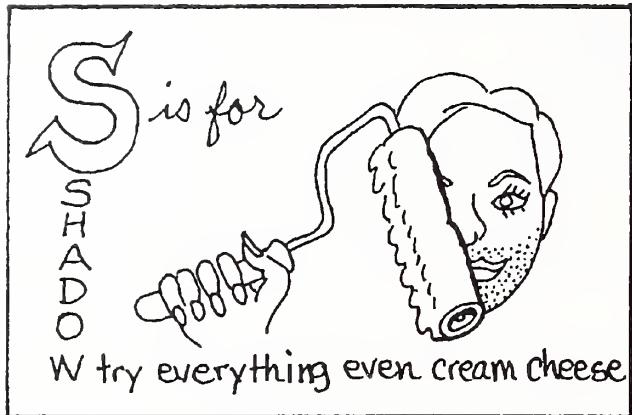


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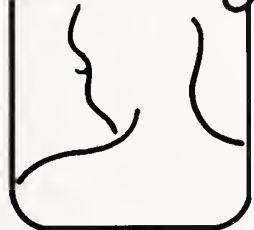


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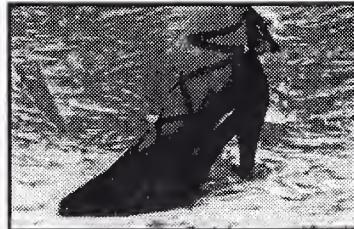
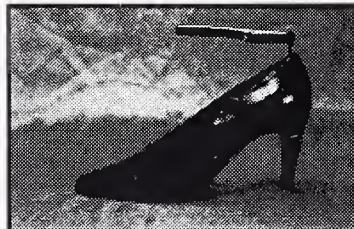
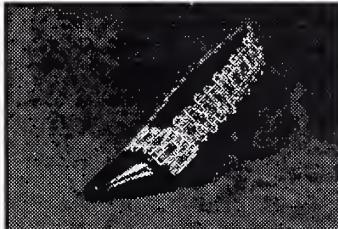
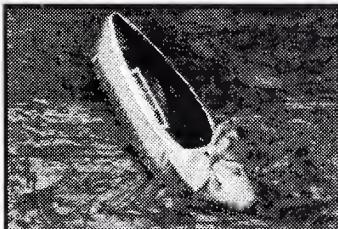
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Editor's Note: If you thought the ending last issue was rather abrupt, it was. Your editor goofed. This story goes on for 30 Chapters. So, without further delay, let's get back to our story.

Chapter 7

I had supper on the table by the time Pa got home: a casserole, candied carrots, tossed salad, rolls, jello with fruit cocktail. I rarely eat at home. I rarely eat. As soon as I called everyone to the supper table, I went to my room and put on shorts, halter top, and running shoes. Ma and Pa and Clorinda and Tammy Mae were already chowing down when I went out the door.

I run about three times a week. Folks in my neighborhood are not health conscious. They tend to sit in front of the television set and drink beer; they look at me as if I were crazy when they see me in my Nikes and shorts.

I made a point of jogging by Johnny Ray's house, which is only a block or so from my parents' place. I wanted to check on his car. If Bobbo Joe had really sugared Johnny's gas tank, he wouldn't be going anywhere in it for quite some time, and that might mean that my job was safe for a while. There was, of course, always the danger that Johnny would blame me for his troubles. He usually did.

The Jetta was in the yard with the hood up. Johnny was halfway in the engine compartment. His broad backside spanned nearly the entire length of the grill. His feet were off the ground. I walked up and leaned over the fender.

"Hello, Johnny Ray."

He was red-faced and sweating. His hands were black with grease, except for the knuckles, which were bright with blood. "Go away, faggot," he sneered.

"Johnny Ray, we need to

talk," I told him.

"So talk. Then go away."

"Johnny Ray, I don't know what kind of thing you got about me and have had since I was five and you were six."

"Simple. Never seen a faggot before."

"No, that's not it."

There must've been some reason for you wanting to play doctor."

He climbed out of the engine and stood facing me, panting. "Goddamn you," he spat.

"You're not a woman. You're not a man. What the hell are you? Why the hell do you exist?"

"There's no need for us to be enemies," I told him. "No need at all."

"So long as there's such as you on this earth, and there's such as me, they will be enemies."

"Johnny, I don't want to fight with you. I could be your friend, if you would just let me. But it takes two to be friends."

"I'll never be your friend."

"Fine then. Just leave me alone."

"No."

"Okay, then, I want to give you a friendly warning. I'm not going to put up with you messing with me. You'll be sorry if you do. Why don't you leave well-enough alone and get off my case? Eat your lunch by yourself. Stay away from me and Mary June Cunningham. Leave me alone at work. That's all I ask."

"I'll go where I damn well please and do what I damn well want."

"Okay, then. Have it your way." I peered at the engine. The head was off. The cylinder walls were covered with sugar, caramelized by the heat of the combustion chamber. "Locked up, is it?"

"Yeah," he said glumly. "And I can't figure out what that brown stuff is. And what the hell business is it of yours,

The Problem

by Dallas Denny

anyway?" he added belligerently. "You've had your say. Now go away."

"All right," I said, and did.

The next day at lunch, Johnny sat down across the table from me and drank my milk. "I go where I want," he said. "I do what I please."

"Yeah, you're a real man, all right," I told him.

"Damn straight. And let me tell you something. That Mary June Cunningham, she's not a bad-looking chick, for a bull dyke. She just needs a real man to put the meat to her, and she'd forget all about the likes of you. I'm planning to have her. I'm going to take her away from you."

"Johnny Ray, you'll never get Mary June to look at you twice. And as for being a real man, you couldn't find your pecker with a magnifying glass."

Johnny had become awfully peculiar about his masculinity. He reached over the table and grabbed me by the collar of my blouse and pulled me right across my brussels sprouts. He would have decked me right there, except that I butted him in the face with my head and bloodied his nose. Two teachers were close, and grabbed us before things went any further.

We wound up in the principal's office, me with vegetable stains on my sweater, and Johnny with a handkerchief to his nose. Mr. Mendez looked at me and sighed. "Sykes, what are we going to do with you?"

"As far as I know, there's not a school rule against eating lunch. That's what I was doing when Johnny grabbed me."

"He claims you insulted him."

"The truth hurts sometimes."

"Your mouth," he said dryly, "has a tendency to get your ass in trouble. It has just done so again. I'm sending you home for five days for fighting in the lunchroom. I'm sending Johnny Ray home for five days also."

"That's not fair," I protested. "He started it. He sits down across from me every day and eats half my lunch and gives me a hard time."

"Laura, you are a disruptive influence in this school. Now, I know you tend to mind your own business, but when I have teachers and good students getting in trouble over you, then I must look at what is for the greater good. And it would be for the greater good if you would conform, or, failing that, if you would leave. Why don't you just be a boy? Maybe you wouldn't get picked on so much."

There were tears in my eyes. "I can't be a boy. It isn't in me. I look and act like the other girls. Why don't people treat me like a human being?"

"The world isn't perfect, Sykes."

"Hell no, it's not, and you aren't either, or you wouldn't be doing this to me."

"My decision may not be fair," he grunted, "but it's final."

Chapter 8

I didn't want to go home, for the school secretary had called and told Ma about my suspension, and I knew she would yell and scream at me. When Pa found out—well, he would smack me, or more likely take the belt to me, and I was in no mood to be beaten. I was only eleven-thirty (I eat early), and I didn't have to be at work until five, but my uniform was in my car, so I drove out to the truck stop, thinking I would sit at the counter and sip on a drink and talk to the other girls and maybe flirt with the truckers until it was time to go to work.

As soon as I entered the dining room, I knew the word was out. All the other waitresses were acting funny. Snelly Gossett just stared at me, and Mary Brandon and Genieva Grossman, bitches both, were too nice to me for something not to be the matter. Tally Andrews, all giggles and blushes, took my order, and then Mr. DiPoulo and Murray the manager, walk-in cooler lovers both, came to the counter and told me I was fired.

I took a sip of my Diet Coke and asked why.

Mr. DeePee cleared his throat and said, "It has come to our attention that—that you are not a woman."

"I'm only seventeen," I said. "Still a girl. I'm not hardly a woman yet. I won't reach the age of consent until next August." I pulled on my drink until the straw began making empty sounds.

"You know what I mean. We have no recourse but to let you go."

Murray stared at me helplessly. He looked as if he would like to get me in the cooler in place of Tally Barnes (he had tried before), to see for himself, but he was helpless in the face of Mr. DiPee. DiPoulo himself had a sort of pleading expression on his face, as if he were begging me not to tell what transpired while I was reaching for the cucumbers.

I glanced toward the door. I could see the back side of the "No Shirt, No Shoes, No Service" sign. It isn't strictly enforced. A group of construction workers was in a booth in the back, and I noticed that one of them was bare-chested. "You're telling me that you think I'm a man and that I am fired because of it."

"Yes."

"Do I look like a man?"

"No."

"Do I sound like a man?"

"No, but that's not point—"

"Do these look like a man's?" I asked, and whipped my top over my head. I wasn't wearing a bra, so my breasts were staring them right in the face, high and firm, with big brown nipples, which happened, at the moment, to be

continued next page

The Problem

erect. Looking at Murray's face, I could see that they were not the only things that were erect. A ragged round of cheers came from the construction crew.

DiPoulo somehow got my top back over my head. Murray watched helplessly, wringing his hands. DeePee was starting to move me toward the front door when I heard a deafening whistle—one of those piercing ones that you seem to hear only in movie theaters. It appeared to come from the kitchen. Both DiPoulo and I turned towards the sound.

It was Bobbo Joe. He had crawled through the order window, knocking cheeseburgers and shrimp platters and liver and onions askew, coming to a stop on the counter near the pie machine. He was doing his old trick with the desert plate, but for some reason, his finger didn't look right. I looked harder, and I realized that it wasn't his finger. As we watched, his AmerIndian manhood, thrust through the hole in the cardboard, surrounded by whipped cream and topped with a maraschino cherry, slowly rose to full attention.

Chapter 9

Bobbo Joe and I were out in the parking lot, sitting on the hood of my Nova. "I always wanted to do that," he said.

"What?" I asked. "Stick your wanger through a pie plate and give the genital bird to your boss?"

"No. Make a futile, symbolic gesture."

"Oh."

"I didn't think about that fat fool using the telephone to check to see if I had put the word out about you."

"It's not your fault," I told him. "He always does this. He never stops until he gets me fired. I should have known he would call. And it was long distance, too. He did this to me, even though it cost him money."

"I'll get him for this," Bobbo threatened.

"He's in enough hot water as it is," I told him. "His car is going to need a new engine. He's suspended from school. Besides, the madder he gets, the meaner he gets. And the meaner he gets, the more grief he gives me."

The construction workers came out; they hollered and waved when they saw me. They started to approach, but Bobbo put an arm around me and gave them his Sitting Bull look, and they got in their truck and roared off.

Snelly Gossett stuck her nose out the door of the restaurant. "Laura Ann—or whatever your name is—your Ma is on the pay phone to you. Mr. DiPoulo is gone. Murray says you can come in and talk to her, but only if you promise to keep your clothes on." She looked at Bobbo Joe. "He says you can't come in under any circumstances."

"Don't you dare come home," Ma said. "Your pa is

almighty mad at you. When the school told me you were suspended, I called him, and he came home early. He swear's he's gonna make a man of you somehow."

There's nothing worse than Pa when he gets on one of his make-a-man-out-of-Leroy rampages. He's done it all my life. He begins by trying to get me to do some dumb father-and-son activity with him, like pitching ball, and ends up by whaling me to within an inch of my life because I can't do it to suit him. Pitch ball. I can't even throw overhanded. I told Ma that I was coming home anyway.

When Bobbo and I got to the house, Pa was waiting by the front gate with a belt in his hand. He started toward the car, but then Bobbo sort of unfolded out of the passenger seat, all 6' 9" of him, and Pa stopped dead in his tracks.

"Don't worry about the Indian," I said. "I've told him not to interfere unless it looks like I'm about to kill you. But you're not going to lay a hand on me. I've done nothing wrong. You've beat me all my life, and most of the time I hadn't done anything to deserve it. It's past time it stopped. You've hit me for the last time."

He came around to take a swing at me with the belt, but I grabbed it and pulled it toward me and put a leg in front of him, and he fell hard. I stood back and let him get to his feet. When he did, the fight was gone out of him, and I knew that he would never try to hit me again.

He stood there for a moment, realizing it too, and said, "All right, then, if you think you're so big, get your stuff and get the hell out. You don't live here any more."

"I'm sorry I had to do that, Pa," I said, and went past him and into my room to pack my stuff.

The first thing I discovered was that the drawers under the water bed were empty. All the money I'd been saving was gone. The next thing I saw was that all my cosmetics, jewelry, and clothes were missing. Even my makeup mirror was gone. The room seemed empty, depersonalized, no longer mine.

Ma and Pa were sitting in the living room. I guess Ma figured that my expulsion from the household warranted her getting out of bed. "Where is my money?" I asked. "Where are my clothes?"

"Gone," said Pa. "We did it for your own good."

"That's my property," I told them. "It wasn't right for you to bother it."

Pa looked at me defiantly. "Well, we did, and there's nothing you can do about it."

They were sitting sort of huddled together, looking old and used up. Ma was bloated and puffy, and Pa was leathery and shrunken. I found myself wondering how I could have ever allowed myself to be beaten by such a pathetic little man. I stood over them like Godzilla stands before Tokyo. One part of me wanted to scream at them for messing with my stuff. Another part wanted to plead with them.



"Ma. Pa. I love you. I got to be me. Can't we just live in peace? Can't we just love each other?" But what I actually did was say, "Pa, you finished any more of those westerns?

I'll be needing something to read."

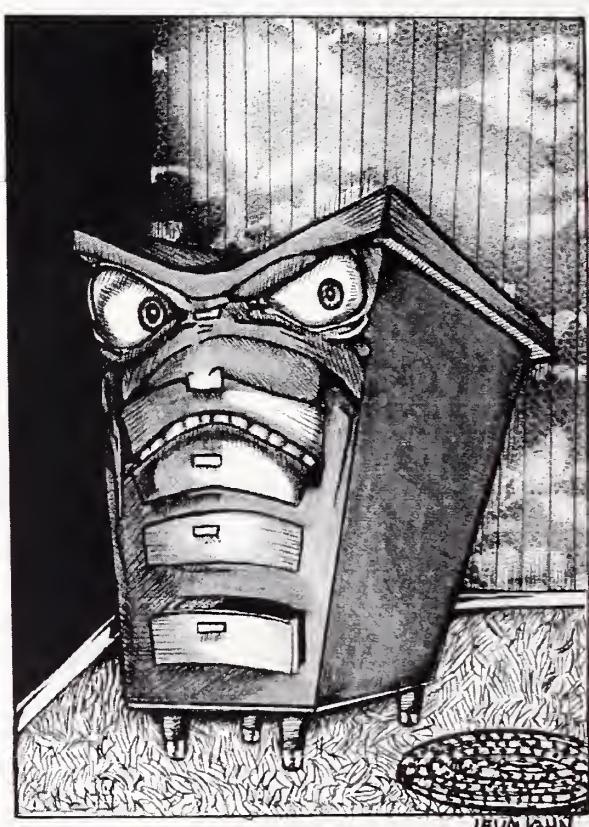
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A Crossdresser



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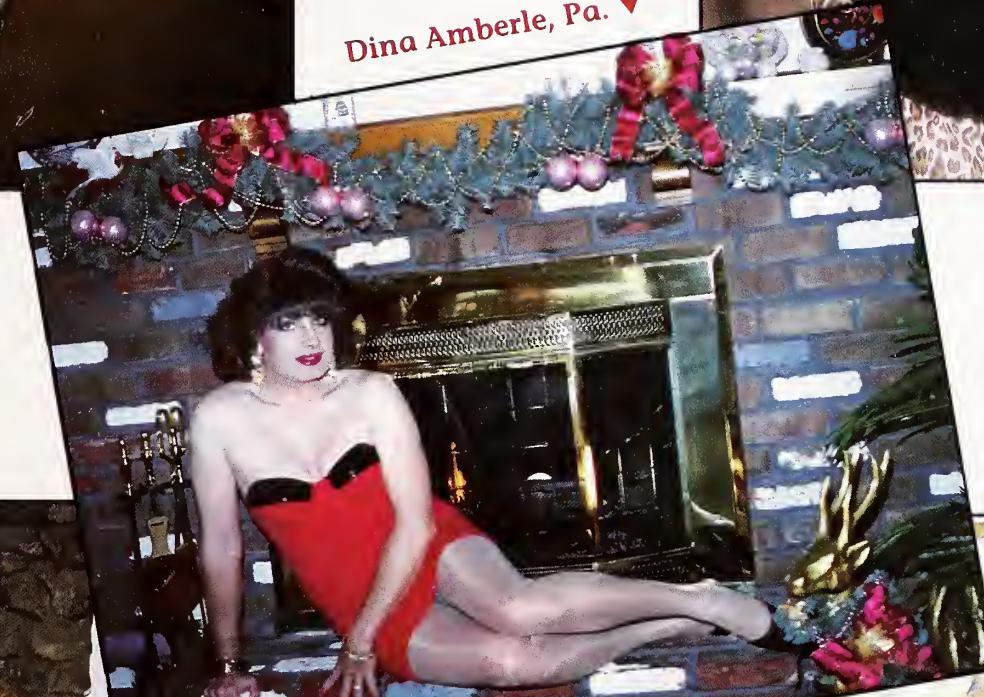
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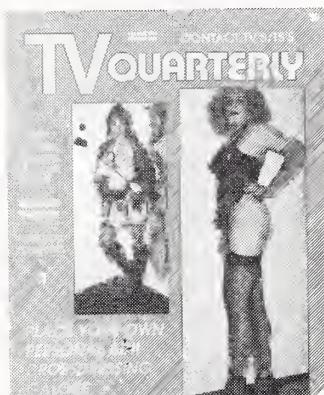
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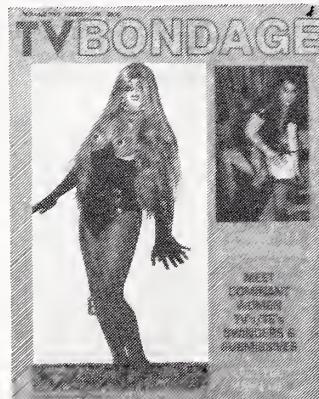
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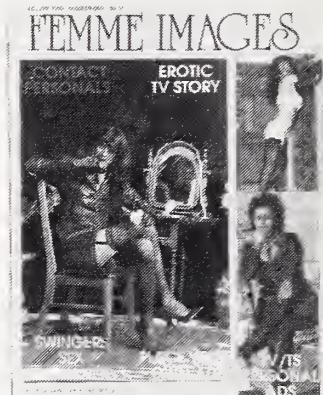
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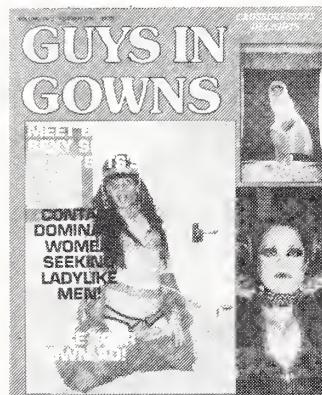
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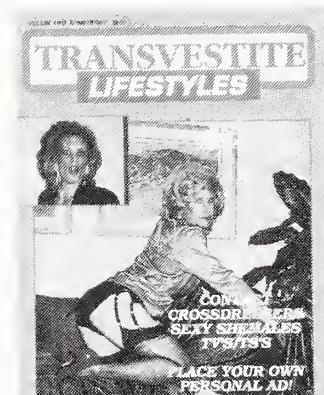
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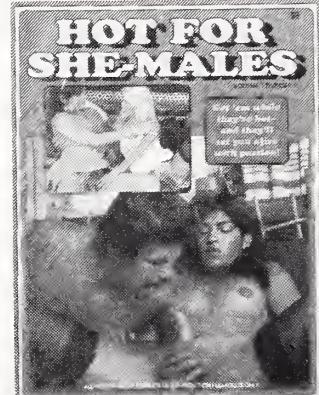
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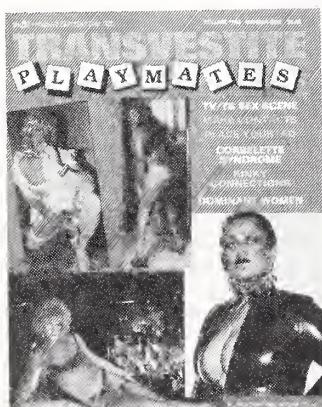
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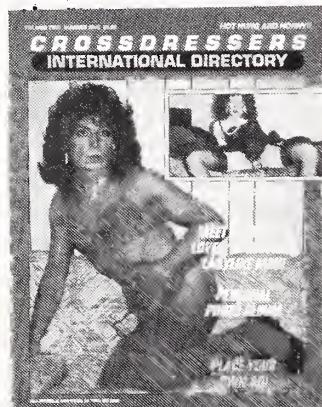
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